

DETROIT INTERMODAL FREIGHT TERMINAL PROJECT
Local Advisory Council Meeting
June 9, 2004
Notes
Revised July 31, 2004
Revised August 17, 2004

Purpose: To review the progress of the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal Project with members of the Local Advisory Council.

Attendance: See attached.

Discussion:

Introduction

Joe Corradino indicated he would be coordinating the meeting in the absence of Mohammed Alghurabi. He then asked for introductions of those in attendance. Then, he indicated that the meeting conduct procedures would allow all LAC members to first discuss their issues; public comment would follow.

Local Advisory Council Appointment

Joe Corradino indicated, as a result of communications from Representative Tobocman, that Maria Anita Salinas will be his representative on the Local Advisory Council. Olga Savic would become an alternate to Maria Anita Salinas.

Kathryn Savoie asked why someone has to leave the LAC to have another person appointed. Joe Corradino explained that it had been the practice to allow elected officials to appoint one person to the LAC. In order to maintain that practice and balance, the substitution of Maria Anita Salinas as Representative Tobocman's designee was appropriate. Kathryn Savoie noted that adding members to the LAC would be beneficial. Joe Corradino responded he believed the issue isn't representation but participation.

Review of Notes

Joe Corradino indicated that the notes of the March 24th meeting were revised consistent with comments made at the May 12th meeting by Chuck Goedert. Additionally, the April 12th notes have been revised, consistent with comments made by Olga Savic. He then asked for any comments on these or the notes of the May 12th meeting.

Marc Higginbotham indicated that he would like to change the reference to Ford Motor Company to “variety of shippers.” Chuck Goedert indicated that Ford Motor Company was indeed mentioned at the May 12th LAC meeting. So, to substitute the term “variety of shippers” for the reference to Ford Motor Company would not be an accurate representation of what was stated on May 12th. Joe Corradino indicated that the emphasis by Marc Higginbotham to avoid singling out Ford, would be included in the notes of the June 9th meeting. Marc Higginbotham also indicated that there was no contract between Norfolk Southern and Ford Motor Company as indicated in the notes of the May 12th meeting.

Chuck Goedert noted that while he has experienced difficulty in getting past mailings of the notes and agenda, he urged that the address used in the last round of mailings be continued as it is working.

MDOT/FHWA Letter

Joe Corradino indicated that a request was made at the May 12th LAC meeting that the letter sent to FHWA by MDOT dealing with the DIFT Air Quality Protocol be provided. Joe Corradino noted that the letter was included in the agenda packet. Chuck Goedert then asked if it would be possible to supply the packet of agenda information in advance of the next LAC meeting. Joe Corradino responded that, while he would try, it is unlikely he will be able to do so.

ACCESS Press Conference

Joe Corradino began to address the press conference that ACCESS conducted in the latter part of May dealing with the DIFT Air Quality Protocol. Kathryn Savoie indicated that she did not believe it was appropriate to discuss the press conference because it did not have anything to do with the LAC. Furthermore, she indicated that the press conference did not include any new information. Kathryn Savoie also noted she did not understand why items that she considers peripheral to the DIFT project, such as Racinos at the State Fairgrounds, or the development of a gate to service the existing CSX terminal, were appropriate matters to be discussed at the LAC meetings.

Joe Corradino responded that he believed the topics on the agenda are related to the DIFT and/or should be of interest to the LAC members. For example, a Racino at the Fairgrounds would affect the viability of expanding the CN/Moterm terminal into that area. Likewise, the CSX gate

has an effect on the alternatives for expanding the Livernois-Junction Yard. Lastly, he indicated that the press conference held dealing with DIFT air quality issues must have been news if a press conference were called. Therefore, he believed that news should have been presented to the LAC so it was fully informed.

Kathryn Savoie stressed that ACCESS was not the sole participant in the press conference. She reiterated that nothing was said at the press conference that was not said at previous LAC meetings.

Joe Corradino indicated that as a byproduct of the press conference, a letter was sent to FHWA urging a health risk assessment. Kathryn Savoie indicated that a generic “response” that did not say much was received from FHWA. Joe Corradino indicated that he believed that an additional response would be forthcoming from FHWA. He indicated that Don Cameron was expected at the meeting and would be asked if that were the case. When Don Cameron arrived later in the evening, Joe Corradino asked if a further response to ACCESS on the DIFT Air Quality Protocol letter were forthcoming. Don Cameron indicated that a further response was being developed by FHWA to the ACCESS letter.

Off-Road Diesel Engine/Fuel Regulations

Joe Corradino presented, using a visual aid, the air quality pollution burden calculations presented at the March round of DIFT public meetings and a revision to it based upon new rules dealing with off-road equipment published by EPA on May 10th. As a result of modeling the effects of these rules, the pollutant burden in almost every category was lessened for the DIFT alternatives. Considerable discussion then ensued about the calculations and an indication that some of the numbers did not total correctly. Joe Corradino indicated the information would be reviewed and updated for the next LAC meeting.

Wayne County Garbage Trucks

Joe Corradino referred to an article in the agenda packet indicating that a number of garbage vehicles were being retrofitted to produce less pollution. It was noted that the article does not refer to Wayne County garbage trucks, but to garbage trucks of the city of Detroit. Bruce King then elaborated on the grant that had been received to retrofit the City’s garbage trucks and the significant amount of pollution reduction expected from this mitigation action. Joe Corradino

referred to an EPA brochure which also indicates the significant amount of pollution reduction anticipated from their new regulations. Kathryn Savoie noted she had copies of that brochure and would be willing to distribute that information at the next LAC meeting.

Joe Corradino noted that pollution monitoring information made available at an EPA Web site indicated that the Research and Engineering plant produces the most significant amount of particulate matter in the region and in the state. Other facilities in Southwest Detroit listed on the EPA Web site were also high in emitting particulate matter.

Bruce King indicated that he attended a conference in Washington, D.C. dealing with diesel vehicles and the effect of the new EPA rules. He noted that 11 million trucks are owner-operated and represent financial complications in achieving the EPA standards.

Chuck Goedert noted that the information being presented on pollution by alternative lacks information about Alternative 4: The Composite Option. He offered that the introduction of that alternative on March 13th is preventing adequate analysis of it. Joe Corradino noted that the project had been extended several months in order to analyze the composite alternative to the same level of detail as all other action alternatives.

DIBC Terminal Proposal

Joe Corradino indicated that the Planning and Development Department of the City of Detroit brought to the DIFT team's attention a proposal for a new intermodal terminal west of I-75 and east of West Grand Boulevard. The Detroit International Bridge Company is the developer of that facility. Mickey Blashfield, a representative of the DIBC, indicated that the terminal is not a new proposal but one that has been discussed for two years. It was originally proposed as an alternative to the MC Depot site for the CP/Expressway operation.

Joe Corradino mentioned that the proposal for this terminal was new to the DIFT team. Nevertheless, he noted that the CP/Expressway operations had ceased on June 4th. Further information was not available, although he knew CP/Expressway intended to meet with MDOT later in June.

CSX Gate

Joe Corradino indicated that he had met with Representative Tobocman and Olga Savic earlier in the day to discuss potential alternatives to the CSX gate at Waterman/Dix/Vernor. Joe Corradino stated that the concept of a single gate at Livernois Avenue, with a trench underneath the railroad tracks to provide access to all parts of the terminal was estimated to cost about \$5 million. On the other hand, a new entryway on the west side of the terminal, with access via Wyoming Avenue, was estimated to cost between \$12 and \$15 million, including property acquisition. This did not include the cost to grade-separate Central Avenue.

Karen Kavanaugh asked if the LAC could get copies of the alternatives and the cost estimates. Joe Corradino indicated that the alternatives were distributed at the March public meeting and they represent Alternatives 2A, 2B and 2C for the Livernois-Junction Yard. The cost estimates were those that he had just provided.

Racino at the Fairgrounds

Joe Corradino indicated that a meeting was held by proponents of a Racino to be developed at the State Fairgrounds. Acceptance of that proposal would preclude possible expansion of the CN/Moterm terminal into the Fairgrounds.

Tha Game

Joe Corradino referred to page 43 of the agenda packet which showed a flyer promoting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament hosted by the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation. The flyer indicated that Eastern Michigan University was a sponsor. Joe Corradino noted that being made Eastern Michigan University had been contacted about its role in this event.

Social/Cultural Interviews

Joe Corradino indicated that between 45 and 50 interviews were completed to develop information to support the social/cultural evaluation.

Railroad Jobs

Joe Corradino referred to the agenda packet to indicate that the railroad industry will have a significant number of jobs available in the near future. He also indicated that a study had been

done by the railroads in southeastern Michigan demonstrating that they employ about 1,200 people with annual average salary of \$70,000.

Marc Higginbotham announced that another Norfolk Southern hiring session would be held at the Holiday Inn in Southgate starting at 8:00 a.m. on June 16th.

Other

Chuck Goedert asked when the set of notes would be made available for the DIFT public meetings held in March. Joe Corradino indicated that that information had been provided at the April meeting of the LAC, which Chuck Goedert missed. That information is also on the project Web. A set of those notes would be forwarded to Chuck Goedert.

Heidi Alcock indicated that the Detroit City Council will have a meeting on Friday, June 11th, at 10:30 a.m. dealing with the DIFT.

Public Comment

Olga Savic, in referring to the information provided on air pollution, asked what the split was between on-road and off-road pollution. Joe Corradino indicated that he did not know but would attempt to provide that information at the LAC meeting. Olga Savic asked for an explanation of what is being considered in the pollutant burden calculations. Joe Corradino indicated that first an area is defined around each terminal. These areas were presented to the LAC at an earlier meeting. Calculations were then made of the amount of activity by locomotives, container moving equipment, employees, visitors, diesel trucks delivering the containers/trailers to the yard. Calculations were also made of the dust generated on the terminal and being carried from the terminal area, and other sites that are unpaved, by trucks moving through the area.

Carmine Palombo indicated that the new EPA regulations dealing with diesel fuel content and the performance of diesel engines are creating a reduction in pollutants that are huge. He noted that the reductions are so significant that SEMCOG was concerned it was making an error in the calculations. In turn, SEMCOG provided its information to EPA for review. EPA confirmed that the air pollution reductions that are being seen are indeed significant.

Josephine Powell asked the meaning of the phrase “an attempt is made” on the social/cultural interview summary forms. Joe Corradino indicated it means a contact was made at least once to secure an interview .

Josephine Powell asked what the age of the truck fleet on the road today. Carmine Palombo indicated that he did not know the answer to that question. Bruce King indicated that the trucks that are in the fleets, of the corporations are replaced every few years. On the other hand, the “smaller players”/owner-operators are less likely to be as aggressive in the fleet replacement.

Josephine Powell asked if locomotives are considered to be off-road vehicles. Joe Corradino indicated they are. Bruce King noted that Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad rebuilds its locomotive engines every million miles.

Josephine Powell asked MDOT’s position on health risk assessment in light of FHWA’s position. Joe Corradino indicated that because Mohammed Alghurabi was not in attendance MDOT’s position can’t be cited. Nevertheless, on a personal basis and as a result of working with MDOT and FHWA on the Air Quality Protocol, Joe Corradino indicated it was his position that the burden of a number of pollutants, including particulates and air toxics, could be determined. On the other hand, he believed that the science is not adequately advanced to allow an adequate definition of health risks from mobile sources.

Tim Jenkins indicated that a Racino at the State Fairgrounds should be understood as a proposal only. The Racino concept is in the legislative process and, therefore, it can only be referred to as a proposal. And, it is only one of several proposals that have been made for use of Fairgrounds property. A decision on any of those proposals is a long way off; nothing is imminent. The only solid development is the Dumars Fieldhouse which is under construction.

Joe Corradino asked Tim Jenkins if it is fair to say that the proposals made for a Huron Metro Park, or a Racino, or intermodal expansion of the CN/Moterm terminal are all considered the same by the Fairgrounds management. Tim Jenkins said that all of those proposals are just that: “proposals”. Until somebody provides appropriate financial incentives to the Fairgrounds, all concepts are proposals.

Olga Savic indicated that she had urged Mohammed Alghurabi by e-mail to complete certain social/cultural interviews. She indicated that she would help in any way possible to see that they were completed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Ford Road Holiday Inn. With that, the meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

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Local Advisory Council Meeting

June 9, 2004

Attendance

LAC Members

Name	Representing	Phone
Heidi Alcock	Detroit Planning Commission	
Chuck Goedert	City of Ferndale	
Karen Kavanaugh	CBRA/SDBA	
Bruce King	Detroit	
Marc Higginbotham	Norfolk Southern	
Carmine Palombo	SEMCOG	
Kathryn Savoie	CBRA	

LAC Observers

Name	Representing	Phone
Mickey Blashfield	Centra	
Scott Bradford	Green Acres/I-CARE	
Chris Brayman	Dearborn Police Department	
Carolyn Buell	League of Women Voters	
Byna Camden	Green Acres/I-CARE	
Vicki Chavez	SW Detroit homeowner	
Marty Connour	MARS Industries	
Joe Corradino	The Corradino Group	313-964-1926
Amanda D'Angelo	Senator Badham's office	
Jeff Edwards	MDOT	
John Edwards	Grandmont resident	
Anita Fleiss	Green Acres/I-CARE	
Lisa Goldstein	SDEV	
Gail Govaerse	Senator Levin's office	
Jim Hartman	The Corradino Group	313-964-1926
Christine Iler	SW Detroit homeowner	
Tim Jenkins	Michigan State Fairgrounds	
Charles M. Jones	Lakeshore Utility Trailer	
Ken Kucel	Wayne County DPS-Engineering	
Bill Land	MDOT	
Anthony Newell		
Bob Parsons	MDOT	
Brenda Peek	MDOT Metro Region	
Sherry Piacenti	MDOT	
Dorothy Pierce	Green Acres/I-CARE	
Josephine Powell	Wayne County Department of Environment	
Harvey Santana	The Corradino Group	313-964-1926
Olga Savic	Rep. Steve Tobocman's office	
Chris Singer	Detroit News	
Chuck Tucker	City of Ferndale	
Adam Willingham	DHDC	
Alexis Zayala	DHDC	

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